(vi) A network of 295 Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations has been set up throughout the country.

(vii) Emission standards for industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.

(viii) Steps have been taken to control pollution from 17 categories of highly polluting industries.

(ix) Industries are also required to provide necessary pollution control measures before commissioning of their plants.

(x) Industries are required to take consent from the respective State Pollution Control Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for discharging their effluent and hazardous waste.

(xi) Environmental Action Plans for 24 critically polluted areas have been prepared and taken up for implementation.

Monitoring Committee for Forest Conservation Works

†337. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a Central Empowerment Committee, to monitor the forest conservation works;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In compliance with the Supreme Court's Order dated 9.5.2002, a Central Empowered Committee has been constituted on 3.6.2002, to monitor the implementation of the Court's Orders and to place before it, the non-compliance cases including those relating to encroachment removals, implementation of working plans, compensatory afforestation, plantations and other conservation issues.

(c) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.